

III. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-35, 39-52, 54-56, and 59-60 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 17, 32, 33, and 35 are independent. Claims 36-38, 53, and 57-58 have been cancelled.

The Specification has been amended to conform the written description to the Drawings and to make typographical and other corrections that would be self-evident to someone of ordinary skill in the art. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 was under 35 USC § 112, for the reasons noted at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the ground that the person of ordinary skill in the art would not be confused as to the meaning or scope of the claim. Nevertheless, Claim 1 has been amended for clarity with respect to the specification and Drawings, and not in response to any statutory requirement.

Claims 1 - 60 stand rejected as being unpatentable over WO 00/41406 (Willehadson), Sheinbein and Brennan, for the reasons discussed on pages 2 - 7 of the Office Action. The Applicants expressly traverse all art rejections. However, in the interest of carrying the prosecution forward and without prejudice, the Applicants have cancelled claims 36-38, 53, and 57-58 and amended claims 1-14, 16-29, 31-35, 39-46, 48-52, 54-56, and 59. The Applicants expressly traverse the rejection of Claims 1-31, 35,

46-53, 54-56, and 59 on the grounds that each rejection is based upon the incorrect assumption that the "terminal agent" claimed in each claim reads on Agent-A (reference numeral 400) shown in Figure 4 of Willehadson et al. However, Agent-A cannot be a claimed terminal agent because it represents more than one terminal and the claimed terminal agent cannot.

More specifically, the structure of Agent-A (and Agent-B as well) is in Figures 1A-1D of Willehadson et al. At page 6 lines 26-30 of Willehadson et al. it is stated that each agent consists of a list of terminals 105, a profile of whereabouts 110, and screening lists 115. This is shown generally in Figure 1A and the specific contents of the list of terminals 105, the profile of whereabouts 110, and the screening lists 115 are shown in Figures 1B-1D, respectively. Further, the list of terminals 105 may contain the location, capabilities, and when the terminal was last used for each of the terminal that the user can use.

In effect, both Agent-A and Agent-B of Willehadson et al. appear to resemble composites of the claimed subscriber agents and terminal agents, each of Agent-A and Agent-B apparently including some characteristics of the claimed subscriber agent and more than one claimed terminal agent in one structure. As discussed below, each claimed terminal agent represents only one terminal.

Figure 4, rather than showing the structure of Agent-A, shows the interaction between Agent-A, user A, and the networks

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N1-N3 that user A is able to use. Box 415 represents user A. The list of terminals inside box 415 simply indicates that user A could use those terminals to communicate with user B (represented by box 420). This is explained at page 9 line 19 to page 10 line 24. Hence all that Figures 4 and 5 show is that user A, 415 can communicate with user B, 420 using a telephone, a fax, or a pager, whereas user B, 420 can communicate with user A, 415 using a pager or a mobile phone as well. In Figure 5, the possible matching of terminals are shown, given the networks that the two users have available.

To make it clearer that Agent-A of Willehadson et al. cannot be a terminal agent within the meaning of the claims, independent claims 1, 2, and 17 now each specifically require that for each terminal there is a single uniquely associated terminal agent and that for each subscriber there is at least one uniquely associated subscriber agent. Further, each claim specifically requires that each subscriber agent be configurable to point to at least one of the terminal agents. These limitations are supported by the Specification at page 7 lines 1-15, page 16 lines 24-28, and page 17 lines 23-26. It should be noted that in view of page 16 lines 24-28 and page 17 lines 23-26, the relation "uniquely associated" as used in the Specification is not commutative. In other words, "X is uniquely associated with Y" does not necessarily mean that "Y is uniquely associated with X". Hence to make it clear that a terminal agent

may only be associated with a single terminal and a terminal may only be associated with a single terminal agent, the word "single" is used in claims 1, 2, and 17 to characterize the unique association between terminals and terminal agents, whereas it is made clear that more than one subscriber agent may be uniquely associated with a subscriber.

Other than the changes required to make clear the association of terminal agents and terminals, the revised wording is intended to better define the invention and is supported by the Specification at page 7 lines 1-15, page 16 lines 24-28, and page 17 lines 23-26 as well as Figures 4, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Similar changes were made to claim 2 and claim 17.

In view of the amendment of claims 1, 2, and 17 described above, it is submitted that the reasons given in paragraphs 3 and 7 of the Office Action for rejection of claims 1, 2, and 17 as anticipated by Willehadson et al. or unpatentable over Willehadson et al. no longer apply to claims 1, 2, and 17 or any of the claims that depend from claims 1, 2, and 17. Every one of those claims contains limitations that require that for each terminal there is a single uniquely associated terminal agent, that for each subscriber there is at least one uniquely associated subscriber agent, and that each subscriber agent point to at least one terminal agent. Willehadson et al. does not disclose or suggest terminal agents that so associated with terminals.

The remaining independent method claims 32, 33, and 35 all include steps that require the use of subscriber agents and terminal agents that are associated with terminals and subscribers, respectively, and interact with each other, in the manner claimed in claims 1, 2, and 17. As such subscriber agents and terminal agents are not anticipated by Willehadson et al., such steps cannot be anticipated either.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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